

GENERAL SYNOD

NOVEMBER GROUP OF SESSIONS 2015

SIXTH NOTICE PAPER

**ITEM 500: ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGES, LEGAL OFFICERS AND
OTHERS (FEES) ORDER 2015**

**ITEM 11: REPORT OF THE CHURCH BUILDINGS REVIEW
GROUP**

Financial statement pursuant to Standing Order 108

1. Financial Statements under Standing Order 108 set out the estimated financial effect of implementing recommendations of reports and taking forward motions if they are passed by the Synod. In most cases figures provided are approximate, recognising the inherent uncertainty in estimating various factors. Members are asked to take this statement into account alongside non-financial factors when considering these items of business.
2. Estimates of the financial implications of any amendments proposed by Members will be provided either in a subsequent notice paper or in an oral statement from a member of the Archbishops' Council's Finance Committee who is a General Synod member (usually the Chair).
3. An item is included in this memorandum if (i) the estimated additional cost is £10,000 or more or (ii) the estimated opportunity cost (e.g. staff time likely to be involved) is £20,000 or more or if it is thought a statement on the estimated financial impact of a proposal would be helpful to members.
4. If the cost of work on any motion, if passed, would fall to the Archbishops' Council, it would be met from within the Council's 2016 budget which Synod approved at its July 2015 Group of Sessions. For any work not already scheduled, the relevant Director, in consultation with others, would consider whether other work of similar cost should be dropped or postponed or if additional, unbudgeted, staff resource could be provided by securing funding from another source. Estimates of staff time are usually an opportunity cost, illustrating the cost of other work that would need to be dropped or deferred. If it is not possible to drop or defer sufficient other work, there would be an impact on the timescale for delivery of the requested work.
5. All costs are estimated at 2016 levels unless otherwise stated. Costs include relevant salaries, employers' national insurance and pension contributions. They exclude office costs such as the printing and postage costs involved in the preparation of new legislation, and the opportunity cost of Synodical time.

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6. The additional cost that would arise from the proposed increase in daily sitting rates for chancellors, the Dean of the Arches and other ecclesiastical judges exercising an appellate jurisdiction would evidently depend on the number of cases. It is considered one case per diocese per year is a reasonable estimate resulting in additional costs of around £2,500.
7. The proposed increase in fees for registrars would result in an increased cost per faculty petition (to be met by the parish or Diocesan Board of Finance). But, overall, those increases are likely to be more than offset by the expected reduction in the number of faculty petitions which will result from the reforms introduced by the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015. These will enable a wide range of matters to be undertaken without a faculty – and therefore without the payment of any fees - if the works or other proposals are approved by the archdeacon. But it is not possible to reliably estimate the extent of any savings that will arise as this will depend on the weight and complexity of casework that emerges over time.

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8. The cost of staff time to support work on the detailed implementation of the proposals in the report as envisaged in part c of the motion will depend to some extent on the number of responses to the consultation and their content. The estimated cost of staff time to bring forward legislative proposals for First Consideration broadly similar to those in GS 2008 is estimated at up to £25,000.
9. Some of the proposals in GS 2008 potentially have financial consequences. An estimate of these will be made when any proposals for change are brought to the Synod in the light of the current round of consultation and subsequent decisions by The Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners and Church Buildings Council.

- Estimated cost of staff time to bring forward legislation proposals for First Consideration: up to £25,000.

Canon John Spence
Chair, Archbishops' Council Finance Committee

November 2015